

**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 18, line 16 and continuing to page 19, line 2 with the following paragraph in full:

Absorbing compounds **1 - 25 and 29-41** are available commercially, for example, from Aldrich Chemical Company (Milwaukee, WI). 9-anthracene carboxy-alkyl trialkoxysilanes are synthesized using esterification methods, as described in detail in PCT Patent Application Serial No. PCT/US02/36327 filed on November 12, 2002, which is commonly-owned and incorporated herein in its entirety by reference, including all related and commonly-owned foreign and domestic issued patents and patent applications. Absorbing compounds **26-28** is available commercially from Gelest, Inc. (Tullytown, PA). Examples of phenyl-based absorbing compounds in addition to absorbing compounds **(26-28)**, many of which are also commercially available from Gelest, Inc., include structures with silicon-based reactive groups attached to phenyl rings or to substituted phenyls, such as methylphenyl, chlorophenyl, and chloromethylphenyl. Specific phenyl-based absorbing compounds include phenyltrimethoxysilane, benzyltrichlorosilane, chloromethylphenyltrimethoxysilane, phenyltrifluorosilane, to name only a few examples. Diphenyl silanes including one or two "leaving groups," such as diphenylmethylethoxysilane, diphenyldiethoxysilane, and diphenyldichlorosilane, to again name only a few examples, are also suitable incorporatable absorbing compounds. Alkoxybenzoic acids may also be used as absorbing compounds, including methoxybenzoic acid.

Please replace the paragraph on page 54, lines 17-18 with the following paragraph in full:

**Absorption coefficient:** The absorption coefficient (k) ~~[[is measurmetns]]~~ measurements are performed together with the thickness ~~[[measurments]]~~ measurements using a n&k Analyzer spectrophotometer.